

Deer Task Force
Monday, July 8, 2013
Town Hall, Old Town Road
6:30 p.m.

Present: Becky Ballard, Ruth Perfido, George Mellor, Paul Deane, Bill McKernan and Betsy Theve who arrived at 7:00.

Not Present: Lisa Sprague

The meeting began at 6:32 p.m.

1. Public Input - none

2. Approval of minutes from June 13, 2013

Minutes were approved in a motion by George Mellor and seconded by Paul Deane.

Ayes 5 (Ballard, Perfido, Mellor, McKernan, Deane) Nays 0 Absent 2 (Sprague, Theve)

3. Ongoing Business

- Report re: June 19th meeting between DEM and DTF – B. Ballard and R. Perfido
Becky Ballard reported that the parties will meet again in July and the DEM will submit a plan by mid-August. She noted that the DEM and the DTF will be working with Dr. Uptah Bandi of the RI Department of Health. Ms. Ballard will ask that the DEM submit the plan by August 1st.

George Mellor read aloud and submitted comments regarding the DEM's response to the Skidaway Plan (attached).

- Report re: June 14th BIRA meeting – R. Perfido
Ruth Perfido reported that she had requested the assistance of BIRA in educating the public regarding the benefits of substantially reducing the deer herd.
- Report re: Town Council unanimous approval of letter to Janet Coit – B. Ballard and R. Perfido
Ruth Perfido reported that the Town Council unanimously approved the letter to DEM regarding the development and implementation of a plan to substantially reduce the deer herd. She noted that conversation also took place regarding reduction vs. elimination of the herd.
- Discussion re: Suggestions for new DTF members
First Warden Gaffett was present and reported that she spoke to a few interested community members, but as of yet, no one had submitted a letter of interest.

Betsy Theve joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

4. Discuss next steps

- Ms. Perfido suggested meeting with the conservancy organizations to discuss the importance of their opening land to hunting. Mr. Deane suggested presenting the DEM plan to each organization.
- A note was received from hunter Peter Fiore asking to be linked with landowners interested in having their land hunted. Mr. McKernan will work with IT to make an area on the Town website to support linking landowners with hunters.
- Ms. Perfido will draft a summary of the DEM meeting.
- Ms. Ballard reported that Cathy Sparks of the DEM responded to a NY Times article about controlling the deer herd with contraception stating that they would not be supportive of such a measure and giving her reasons why.
- Mr. Mellor will submit an article to the Block Island Times regarding Lyme Disease.
- Mr. McKernan suggested everyone read an article titled When Lyme Disease Lasts and Lasts.

Next meeting for the Deer Task Force August 13, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m. by motion made by Betsy Theve and seconded by Bill McKernan and unanimously approved.

Minutes approved: 8/13/2013

Millie McGinnes